

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRYUSSR

SUBJECTGovernment Influence and Control over Education

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Soviet higher educational and technical institutions, special higher educational institutions (of the merchant fleet) and scientific research institutes (which handle scientific research work and also offer higher degrees for scientific workers) are all federal organizations and as such are under complete governmental control. There are no independent educational institutions in the USSR.
2. Higher educational institutions are controlled by the government in one of two basic ways:

(a) Government universities and pedagogical institutes are under the Ministry of Culture of the USSR and the republics and are administered by the Head Directorate of Higher Education of that Ministry;

(b) Other institutions are under the various ministries and are administered by the head directorates of educational institutions of those ministries.

In both of the above cases the government handles all financial affairs of the institutions.

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3. Courses of study, admissions and graduations, requirements for instructors, etc, are all handled by the head directorates of educational institutions. These head directorates are in turn subordinated to the assistant ministers. The assistant ministers are obliged to keep the ministers informed on educational affairs within the ministry. The ministers, in turn, must report to the Council of Ministers and to the Central Committee on the state of specialist training in their respective ministries. 50X1
4. Other organs which exercise control over higher educational institutions are the special sections. These sections are under the local organs of the MVD and corresponding divisions of that ministry (secret code, special, and first divisions). The main purpose of these special sections (spetsodel) in education is to check (sometimes openly and often secretly) on the political reliability of the students and staffs of the various institutions.
5. The third controlling organ of the government is the Party organization or the Party bureau in charge of which is the secretary or the Party organizer. Besides directing the political life of the student body, the Party bureau meddles in all phases of the institution's activity, the instruction of the students, the work of the instructors and the administration. The leaders of the Party bureau are independent of the school administration and are responsible to the rayon, town and oblast Party committees.
6. As far as the young people (17 to 25) among the students are concerned, there is still another organ of government supervision in education, the Komsomol. The Komsomols, like the Party bureaus, concern themselves extensively with the institution's affairs. These Komsomols are directed by Komsomol organizers who are chosen by the central committee of the VLKSM (All-Union Lenin Communist Youth Union). These organizers are responsible on one hand to the Party organization at the institution and on the other hand to the rayon, town and oblast committees of the VLKSM. Komsomols are, of course, independent of the school administration.
7. The last general organ of governmental influence in the educational institutions is the professional union organization. One must remember, of course, that these unions have absolutely nothing in common with the independent labor unions found in the USA. They are strictly government organs. In the institutions these unions exist in every faculty for the purpose of political and professional indoctrination of the students. The unions are directed by union organizers and general institute union committees. The committees are headed by chairmen. The union organizations are responsible on one hand to the Party and Komsomol groups at the institution in question and on the other to the local oblast or basin professional union committees or councils. They are also responsible to the central committees of branch professional unions.
8. In the higher technical training institutions of the transportation industry, (Ministry of the Merchant Fleet and Ministry of Communication) the government extends its influence by means of a special educational institution section or sector of the ministry's political directorate.

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